

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-63. (Canceled).

64. (Currently Amended) A stent for supporting a vessel comprising:

a tubular body having a longitudinal axis, and having proximal and distal ends and a lumen extending longitudinally therebetween, and a wall having areas thereof ~~removed to~~ that define a web structure configured for circumferential expansion from a contracted delivery configuration to an expanded deployed configuration;

the web structure comprising a plurality of web patterns that are interconnected with one another at a plurality of interconnection locations, and arranged so that the web patterns are situated side-by-side along the longitudinal length of the tubular body, with each web pattern also extending circumferentially around the wall;

at least one of said interconnected web patterns comprising,

at least three webs joined end-to-end so as to extend between a pair of interconnection locations with no other interconnection location between the pair of interconnection locations;

said three webs that are joined end-to-end being joined by two bends so that the bends permit the three webs to be generally foldable between the pair of interconnection locations when said tubular body is in the contracted delivery configuration, and then unfolded when said tubular body is expanded to the deployed configuration; and

said at least three webs each comprising a plurality of web sections, with one of the web sections being angled relative to one other web section when the stent is in the expanded deployed configuration.

65. (Canceled).

66. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein each interconnection location comprises a transition section that defines an H-shaped structure that spans adjacent pairs of webs.

67. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein at least one of the H-shaped structures is disposed at an angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the tube.

68. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 66, wherein each at least one of the web sections comprises a substantially straight section.

69. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 68, wherein each web comprises three substantially straight sections.

70. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 68, wherein each transition section interconnects a web pattern, and wherein said at least three webs joined end-to-end define an S-shaped structure.

71. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the tube is formed using a material so that the stent is balloon expandable when deployed.

72. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the tube comprises a deformable material.

73-75. (Canceled).

76. (Currently Amended) A stent comprising:

a tubular body having a longitudinal axis, and having proximal and distal ends and a lumen extending longitudinally therebetween, and a wall having areas thereof ~~removed to~~ that define a web structure configured for circumferential expansion from a contracted delivery configuration to an expanded deployed configuration;

the web structure comprising a plurality of web patterns that are interconnected with one another at a plurality of interconnection locations, and arranged so that the web patterns are situated side-by-side along the longitudinal length of the tubular body, with each web pattern also extending circumferentially around the wall;

at least one of said interconnected web patterns comprising,

at least three webs joined end-to-end so as to extend between a pair of interconnection locations defined as transition sections, with no intervening interconnection location between the pair of transition sections;

said three webs that are joined end-to-end being joined by two bends so that the bends permit the three webs to be generally foldable between the pair of transition sections when said tubular body is in the contracted delivery configuration, and then unfolded when said tubular body is expanded to the deployed configuration; and

each web comprising three web sections, with one of the web sections being a central section joined at opposite ends thereof to two lateral sections, each of the lateral sections being angled relative to the central section when the stent is in the expanded deployed configuration.

77-78. (Canceled).

79. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 76, wherein the transition sections define H-shaped structures.

80. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 79, wherein at least one of the H-shaped structures is disposed at an angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the tube.

81. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 76, wherein each arcuate web comprises at least one substantially straight section.

82. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 81, wherein each arcuate web comprises three substantially straight sections.

83. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 76, wherein transition sections interconnecting each web pattern to neighboring web patterns are separated by at least three arcuate webs that define an S-shaped structure.

84. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 76, wherein the stent is balloon expandable.

85. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 76, wherein the stent comprises a deformable material.

86-118. (Canceled).